

## REMARKS

The claims have been amended to place the application in better form for examination and the specification has been amended to include a reference to related applications. Entry of the amendment and favorable consideration are requested.

If any questions arise, the Examiner is invited to phone the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

HUTCHISON & MASON PLLC

Date: December 20, 2004

By: Joshua T. Elliott

Joshua T. Elliott  
Registration No. 43,603

P.O. Box 31686  
Raleigh, NC 27612  
+1.919.829.9600

I hereby certify that the application/correspondence attached hereto is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Express Mail Label No. EV 613032895 US

Date of Deposit: December 20, 2004

Cynthia Wilder

(Typed Name of Person Signing Certificate)

Cynthia Wilder

(Signature of Person Signing Certificate)

Date of Signing: December 20, 2004